Amendments to the Claims

1. (Canceled)

2. (Currently amended) An emergency reporting apparatus ~~as recited in claim 1,~~ for a vehicle, comprising:

a microphone;

a loudspeaker;

a handsfree system circuit;

means for allowing handsfree two-way speech communication with an emergency report receiving center via the microphone, the loudspeaker, and the handsfree system circuit; and

a volume control circuit connected to the loudspeaker for automatically controlling a volume level of sound generated by the loudspeaker at a predetermined constant level or higher during two-way speech communication between said emergency report receiving center and said emergency reporting apparatus;

wherein the volume control circuit controls the volume level at the predetermined constant level, and inhibits a user from changing the volume level.

3. (Currently amended) An emergency reporting apparatus ~~as recited in claim 1,~~ for a vehicle, comprising:

a microphone;

a loudspeaker;

a handsfree system circuit;

means for allowing handsfree two-way speech communication with an emergency report receiving center via the microphone, the loudspeaker, and the handsfree system circuit; and

a volume control circuit connected to the loudspeaker for automatically controlling a volume level of sound generated by the loudspeaker at a predetermined constant level

or higher during two-way speech communication between said emergency report receiving center and said emergency reporting apparatus;

wherein the volume control circuit comprises means for controlling the volume level at the predetermined constant level during emergency reporting communication, and means for allowing a user to change the volume level.

4. (Currently amended) An emergency reporting apparatus ~~as recited in claim 1,~~ for a vehicle, comprising:

a microphone;

a loudspeaker;

a handsfree system circuit;

means for allowing handsfree two-way speech communication with an emergency report receiving center via the microphone, the loudspeaker, and the handsfree system circuit; and

a volume control circuit connected to the loudspeaker for automatically controlling a volume level of sound generated by the loudspeaker at a predetermined constant level or higher during two-way speech communication between said emergency report receiving center and said emergency reporting apparatus;

wherein the volume control circuit comprises first means for controlling the volume level at the predetermined constant level during emergency reporting communication, second means for allowing a user to change the volume level after the first means controls the volume level at the predetermined constant level, and third means for preventing the volume level from moving out of a predetermined range after the volume level is changed via the second means.

5-7. (Canceled)

8. (Currently amended) An emergency reporting network system comprising:

an emergency report receiving center;

a communication network; and

emergency reporting apparatuses connectable with the emergency report receiving center via the communication network;

wherein each of the emergency reporting apparatuses comprises the emergency reporting apparatus of one of claims ~~1-7~~ 2-4.

9. (Previously presented) In a vehicle including an audio system, a method of reporting an emergency, comprising the steps of:

allowing handsfree speech communication with an emergency report receiving center via a microphone and a loudspeaker; and using a loudspeaker of the audio system as the handsfree speech communication loudspeaker; and

in cases where the loudspeaker of the audio system is wrong, replacing the loudspeaker of the audio system with another loudspeaker of the audio system and thereby using another loudspeaker of the audio system as the handsfree speech communication loudspeaker.

10. (Original) A method as recited in claim 9, wherein one of an audio-system loudspeakers located in a right front door, a right rear door, a left front door, a left rear door, a right portion of a rear seat, and a left portion of the rear seat of the vehicle is used as the handsfree speech communication loudspeaker.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Previously presented) A method as recited in claim 9, wherein the replacing step comprises the step of replacing the loudspeaker of the audio system with another loudspeaker of the audio system in response to user's manual operation.

13. (Currently amended) ~~A method as recited in claim 9,~~ In a vehicle including an audio system, a method of reporting an emergency, comprising the steps of:

allowing handsfree speech communication with an emergency report receiving center via a microphone and a loudspeaker; and using a loudspeaker of the audio system as the handsfree speech communication loudspeaker; and

in cases where the loudspeaker of the audio system is wrong, replacing the loudspeaker of the audio system with another loudspeaker of the audio system and thereby using another loudspeaker of the audio system as the handsfree speech communication loudspeaker;

wherein the replacing step comprises the step of replacing the loudspeaker of the audio system with another loudspeaker of the audio system in response to a loudspeaker change requirement signal transmitted from the emergency report receiving center.

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14. (Original) A method as recited in claim 13, wherein a DTMF signal is used as the loudspeaker change requirement signal.

15. (Previously presented) A method as recited in claim 9, wherein the replacing step comprises the steps of detecting a level of sound generated by the loudspeaker of the audio system, and replacing the loudspeaker of the audio system with another loudspeaker of the audio system in response to the detected sound level.

16. (Previously presented) A method as recited in claim 9, wherein the replacing step comprises the steps of detecting an impedance of the loudspeaker of the audio system, deciding whether the loudspeaker of the audio system is normal or wrong in response to the detected impedance of the loudspeaker, and replacing the loudspeaker of the audio system with another loudspeaker of the audio system when the loudspeaker of the audio system is decided to be wrong.

17. (Previously presented) An emergency reporting apparatus for a vehicle including an audio system, the apparatus comprising:

a microphone;

a loudspeaker;

a handsfree system circuit; and

means for allowing handsfree speech communication with an emergency report receiving center via the microphone, the loudspeaker, and the handsfree system circuit; and

wherein the handsfree speech communication loudspeaker uses a loudspeaker of the audio system ;

means for automatically selecting one from among a plurality of loudspeakers of the audio system as the handsfree speech communication loudspeaker.

18. (Canceled)

19. (Previously presented) An emergency reporting apparatus as recited in claim 17, further comprising a unit manually operable by a user, and means for selecting one from among loudspeakers of the audio system as the handsfree speech communication loudspeaker in response to manual operation of the unit by the user.

20. (Canceled)

21. (Previously presented) An emergency reporting apparatus for a vehicle having an audio system including a plurality of loudspeakers, comprising:

a microphone;

a handsfree system circuit;

a communication device; and

a processor operates to implement handsfree two-way speech communication with an emergency report receiving center via the microphone, the handsfree system circuit, the communication device and at least one selected loudspeaker from among the plurality of loudspeakers of the audio system of the vehicle having determined to be operational.

22. (Previously presented) An emergency reporting apparatus for a vehicle, comprising:

a microphone;

a loudspeaker;

a handsfree system circuit;

means for allowing handsfree two-way speech communication with an emergency report receiving center via the microphone, the loudspeaker, and the handsfree system circuit; and

a volume control circuit connected to the loudspeaker for automatically controlling a volume level of sound generated by the loudspeaker at a predetermined constant level or higher during emergency reporting in response to a desired volume signal.

23. (Previously presented) An emergency reporting apparatus as recited in claim 22, further comprising means for preventing the volume level of sound generated by the loudspeaker from being decreased to less than the predetermined constant level.